BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

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- **Retail sales dip 0.9% in August**
- **Investment in new housing construction jumps 13.7% in August**
- **Average weekly earnings edge down 0.3% in August**

The Economy

- **Revenues in British Columbia's retail sector dipped 0.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in August, following a 0.1% rise observed in the previous month.** Sales were stronger at electronics & appliance stores (+0.6%), gas stations (+4.4%), sporting goods, hobby, book & music stores (+3.2%), general merchandise stores (+0.7%) and miscellaneous store retailers (+2.3%). Clothing & accessory stores recorded the largest drop in revenues, a double-digit decline of 12.8%. Sales in retail's largest subsectors, food & beverage stores, (-1.1%), and motor vehicle & parts dealers (-2.8%) fell. Revenues were also lower in health and personal care stores (-0.4%), building material, garden equipment & supplies dealers (-2.4%), and furniture stores (-3.5%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Nationally, retail sales expanded 0.3%, boosted particularly by higher retail revenues in Quebec (+0.2%), Ontario (+0.6%), and Alberta (0.4%).** Retail sales in Newfoundland & Labrador (+1.0%), Nova Scotia (+2.8%), and Saskatchewan (+0.6%) were also stronger than the previous month. Lower revenues were recorded in Manitoba (-0.4%), British Columbia (-0.9%), and New Brunswick (-0.7%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Wages

- **Average weekly earnings of payroll employees in British Columbia were $870.85 in August (*seasonally adjusted*), slightly lower than in the previous month (-0.3%).** On a year-over-year basis, average wages in the province rose 3.2%. Nationally, employee wages averaged $907.19, a rise of 0.4% over the previous month, and 3.6% over the same time in the previous year.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Housing

- **Investment in new housing construction (*unadjusted*) in the province surged in August, rising 13.7% over the same month last year, to $634.2 million.** Apartment construction investment ($288.1 million) rose by 40.8%, surpassing investment in single detached homes ($264.6 million), which rose 2.8%. Investment contracted in row housing construction (11.6%), but expanded in semi-detached (double) dwelling construction (-2.2%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Sales of residential homes in British Columbia are forecast to decline 9.8% in 2012, to 69,200 units.** The average MLS® price is expected to fall 7.6%, to $518,600. In 2013, home sales are forecast to rise to 74,920 units (+8.3%). Around the province, the number of homes sold in 2012 is forecast to be 26,200 (-20.5%) in Vancouver, 5,775 (+0.0%) in Victoria, and 5,540 (+12.8%) in Okanagan Mainline (Okanagan, Shuswap, and Revelstoke areas).

  Data Source: BCREA

- **Following a 15.4% increase in average home prices in 2011 in Vancouver, prices are forecast to fall in both 2012 (-5.9%) and 2013 (-1.9%).** In Victoria, a drop in price that started in 2011 (-1.2%) is expected to continue in 2012 (-2.5%), but reverse direction in 2013 (+1.3%). Similarly, downward pressure on prices recorded in 2011 (-3.7%) in Okanagan

Report | No release this issue

Did you know...

The majority of Canadians (56%) say that 'the [E. coli] outbreak has not impacted their consumption of beef' while one in three (35%) report that they will 'avoid beef in the short term, but their consumption of beef will return to normal when the situation has passed'.

Source: Ipsos Reid

Mainline is forecast to continue though 2012 (-0.2%), but edge up in 2013 (+1.7%).

Data Source: BCREA

Health

- **November is prostate cancer awareness month.** The incidence of prostate cancer per 100,000 of the population is 119.9 men in British Columbia, and 124.3 men in Canada as a whole. Prostate cancer is recorded as the cause of death for 20.2 men per 100,000 of the population in British Columbia.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Research

- **A study out of the University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business has found that one's chance of becoming a CEO is greater if they are born early in the year.** The study, based on a sample of 375 CEOs at S&P 500 companies in the period between 1992 and 2009, found that 12.5% of CEOs were born in March, and 10.7% were born in April, compared to 6.1% in June, and 5.9% in July. *Data Source: University of British Columbia*

Census

- **In the 2011 census, 80.5% of British Columbians reported English as the language most often spoken at home (*excluding institutional residents*), while 15.4% reported speaking a non-official language most often at home, and 0.4% said they primarily speak French in their homes.** The percentage of British Columbians who identified English as their mother tongue (defined as "the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census") was 70.3%, while 1.3% cited French, and 26.5% reported a non-official language as their mother tongue.

  Punjabi was the most common non-official language spoken in homes, stated by 3.2% of British Columbians. Cantonese (2.4%), Chinese (1.9%), and Mandarin (1.8%) were also common languages. Of those in Vancouver who spoke a non-official language in the home, the most was Punjabi (17.7%), followed by Cantonese (16.0%), Chinese (12.2%), Mandarin (11.8%), and Tagalog (6.7%). Of the Vancouver population, 31.0% predominantly speak an immigrant language at home.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **English is the language most often spoken in the homes of 64.8% of Canadians, while 20.6% report French as the primary language spoken at home.** Non-official languages are most commonly spoken in the homes of 11.1% of Canadians. Only 56.9% of all Canadians report English as their mother tongue, while 0.5% state a selected Aboriginal language. Of non-official and non-Aboriginal languages, Chinese (1.3%), Punjabi (1.3%), German (1.2%), Spanish (1.2%), and Cantonese (1.1%) are the most common mother tongues. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **Canada's net foreign debt totalled $241.6 billion at market value in the second quarter of 2012, growing 10.7% over the first quarter.** The debt had contracted 21.2% in the last quarter of 2011. The international investment position represents approximately 13.5% of Canada's national income, a remarkable shift from levels in the mid-1990s, which accounted for roughly 44% of national income, at $297 billion.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/2012	% change on one year ago
BC	4,622.6	1.0
Canada	34,880.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 8)		
(BC - at market prices)	2010	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	203,147	5.9
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	167,140	3.0
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,899	1.4
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	26,166	2.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Aug 2012	3,243	1.3
Merchandise Exports - Aug 2012	2,441	-5.5
Retail Sales - Aug 2012	5,046	-0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Sep 2012)	one year ago	% change
BC	0.7	1.5
Vancouver	0.8	1.7
Victoria	0.5	1.4
Canada	1.2	2.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Sep 2012	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	5.7	
Labour Force - BC	2,503.4	0.6
Employed - BC	2,328.3	0.2
Unemployed - BC	175.1	5.7
		Aug 2012
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	7.0	6.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.4	7.3
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Oct 24/2012	Oct 26/2011
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.10	3.50
- 5 year	5.24	5.29
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Oct 24/2012	Oct 26/2011
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9946	1.0101
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0051	0.9952
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Sep 2012	one year ago
BC	858.69	1.8
Canada	876.66	3.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Open Data, 2011 Census, Language Data

The fourth and final data release from the 2011 Census. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Open Data, Census Area Profiles NEW – 2001 files added

Here's where you can get at the datasets for all areas, large and small. We'll be adding more as 2011 Census data are released, as well as additional historical tables – so keep coming back! See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Key Indicators

A new way to stay current!. We've added a page to put the latest highlights and summary figures at your fingertips.-See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/KeyIndicators.aspx

Solid Waste Generation Forecast

This report highlights three projection scenarios with varying degrees of measures taken to divert waste from British Columbia landfills. The report includes a summary of the methodology and the results of the forecast for each scenario from 2010 through 2025. Read this at:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/EnvironmentalStatistics/Analysis.aspx

Census 2011 Fast Facts

The age-sex data from the 2011 Census have been released. For the first time, since reporting began, persons 65 years of age and older outnumbered 0 to 14 year-olds in BC. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/2011Census.aspx

Released this week by BC Stats

- No periodical releases

Released next week

- Business Indicators, October 2012
- Labour Force Survey, October 2012
- Earnings & Employment Trends, October 2012

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